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This is a book meant for the beginner. It may be used as a class textbook, as a guide to individual research workers, and as a help to all teachers of zoölogy, histology, or embryology. As a textbook it can hardly be improved. The author has had ten years of practical experience in teaching microscopical technique, and has produced a series of seventeen chapters that are logically arranged and contain practical, definite statements of essential things. Memoranda are appended to each chapter. In these the student will find the material necessary to elaborate the methods given in the course of the regular work. After the student has completed this course, he will be fully equipped, as far as this subject is concerned, to begin research work that calls for microscopical technique, or to go out as a teacher of elementary histology, embryology, or zoölogy. With this book as a beginning he can without help study the involved special methods found in such works as Lee's *Microtomists' Vade Mecum* and Hardesty's *Neurological Technique*, etc. Besides this the student is given in Appendix A a concise non-technical statement of optical principles which will help him get the maximum results from his microscope and will serve as an introduction to larger works, such as Gage's *The Microscope*.

The research worker will find in this book just the information he frequently needs in preparing material with which he is not familiar.

The teacher of zoölogy will value Appendix D (pp. 215-26), which has been incorporated for his special benefit. These pages tell him how to prepare slides and other material of the many groups of animals.

On looking over the book the advanced student cannot help but wish that it might have been available when he began his work.

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*True Bird Stories from My Note-Books.* By OLIVE THORNE MILLER. With illustrations by LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1903. Pp. 156.

These stories are of special interest as the author tells us in the preface that they are strictly true. This fact gives the book a place apart from the many nature-study books that are now flooding the market. These latter either give their subjects human attributes or else a remarkable command of the English language. Mrs. Miller tells the simple events in the lives of a dozen birds that she received from bird-stores in New York and Brooklyn and kept during the winter in part of the house called the "bird-room." The captives were liberated in the country when the other birds came back from the south in the spring. The stories are delightfully told, and both old and young are sure to enjoy reading or hearing about "The Bird That Would Not Be Free," "The Baby Robin," and "The Saucy Oriole." Fifty pages are also devoted to birds out of doors. The stories are short, and more than twenty kinds of common birds figure in them. They would serve admirably as reading-lessons at any time during the winter or spring, and give just the material that is often desired when children have learned to know a bird and want to hear more about it. Mr. Fuertes has furnished nine full-page illustrations which add to the beauty of the book.

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